



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 10, 2002

S. 1811

Presidential Appointments Improvement Act of 2002

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs on
March 21, 2002*

S. 1811 would amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to simplify and streamline the financial disclosure requirements for executive branch personnel. The bill would direct the Office of Government Ethics and the Attorney General to conduct a study of conflict of interest laws relating to federal employment. S. 1811 also would require all executive agencies to submit a plan to the President and the Congress to reduce the number of Presidential appointments requiring Senate confirmation. Finally, the bill would increase the penalty for late filing of financial disclosure reports from \$200 to \$500.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1811 would cost less than \$500,000 for the new disclosure form and studies, subject to the appropriation of the necessary funds. Enacting the bill could also increase the collection of governmental receipts (revenues) through late filing fees, but CBO estimates that any increase would not be significant. Because the bill could affect receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.